

Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

September 21, 2011 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Southeast Seattle Senior Center

4655 South Holly Street, 98118

Attendees

NAC Members:

Cheryl dos-Remedios, Christie Coxley, David Savion, Gregory Davis, Harry Hoffman, Katy Curtis, Margaret Yellowwolf, Mohamed Sheikh Hassan, Peter Masundire, Rodolfo Castillo, Trey West.

Public members:

Trevon Gilliam, Tila Coloman, Rebecca Saldaña

Partners:

Trang Tu (Tu Consulting), Julia Walton (Urban Design Consultant)

City Staff:

Nora Liu, David Goldberg (DPD), Sebhat Tenna (DON)

Update on Urban Design around Station Area and Linkages (by Julia Walton)

- Brainstorm session on how to remove physical/psychological barriers to linkages/walking.
 - There are Sound Transit owned properties that might be useable in the future.
 - There is an area zoned for single family in the area also. Should this area be developed into town houses?
 - Currently, ground floor commercial is required in the area around the station. Should this be changed to encourage development?
 - What type of industrial/mixed use would work in this area? Julia shared photos of some examples.
 - Should design guidelines be created?
- Brainstorm session on how to increase development/uses around station area at Henderson and Rainier, currently zoned NC2 and 3.
 - Could install a large art piece, or something to serve as a gateway.
 - Would need to change grading and vegetation and change superblocks and increase feeling of safety.
 - Suggestion to work with SPU and Parks as they do projects in the area.
 - Discussed ideas for food vendors, use of Sars parking lot.
 - Individual NAC member voices include:
 - * suggested a dock/deck at the shoreline as a focal point at the end of Henderson;
 - * support for art on the street idea;
 - * suggested signal box art;
 - * stated that a tour company is now offering tours of the area, citing its diverse population;
 - * suggested planters in center of street along the length of the street, as well as curb bulbs;
 - * suggested better lighting along Henderson.

Review and Provide Guidance on 1st NPU Draft

- NAC is asked to provide comments and feedback.
- There are three months to get the document ready.

Approach to Organizational Development & Community Capacity Building (by Tran Tu)

- Trang, who has worked with the Vietnamese Friendship Association, the Mt. Baker Housing Association and the Rainier Valley Community Empowerment Coalition listed some of her suggestions:
 - Be proactive;
 - identify what capacity you already have and build on it;
 - identify and pull in outside information;
 - be culturally relevant and competent;
 - think long-term/sustainable.
- In response to the group's scope of work, Trang suggested using a team approach and using expertise of city staff and other resources. Involve potential funders early.
- Responding to a NAC member's question of what she felt the group's biggest challenge was, Trang stated she thought the time frame presented the greatest challenge, as it is very tight.

Public Comment Period

- Resident announced "Got Green" survey in 98118 zip code around women and the green economy. Priorities identified were access to high paying jobs, access to healthy foods, healthy, energy efficient homes, affordable public transportation.

Update on Consultant Selection Process

- Mayor's Office and Budget Office have okayed hiring consultant.
- NAC members were asked if they are ready to go ahead with hiring, and if Committee would be interested in hiring Trang to do the work.
- NAC member asked for information on other consultants being considered.
 - Nora stated that Tony To at Homesight was also considered.

NAC members voted to approve hiring Trang as consultant.

- Nora asked for volunteers to help her begin the process with Trang before the next scheduled meeting.
 - Several NAC members volunteered. Meeting time/date will be determined online.

Public Comment Period

- Puget Sound Sage is looking for community input on transportation priorities in the Rainier Valley.

Follow up on Engaging Neighborhood Organizations (Speakers Bureau)

- Goal is to connect with people in organizations who are interested in the plan update and could be available to go out and talk to other groups about it.
 - A list of organizations has been developed and representatives have been invited to attend workshops and staff tables if they chose to have one.
 - Tables will be organized around the "pearls".

- NAC members are encouraged to invite people/groups to participate in the community meeting as participants to increase social connections.

Wrap up

NAC members agreed to hold an extra meeting on October 5; Sebhat will update the Committee as to location.

- At the October 5, 2011 meeting, NAC members will review the draft strategies document to see that it includes NAC suggestions from previous meetings.
- Sebhat circulated a sign-up sheet for Kerry Wade in reference to “Where’s the Beach?” t-shirts.
- Thanks to everyone who participated in the Back2School Bash and the Art Walk.
- NAC member encouraged group to check out the Code for America website. NAC member’s group will be accepting a DOiT Technology award tomorrow.
- Nora will draft an invitation to elected officials for NAC members to approve and sign for the community meeting.